

Session 9 The Forerunner Message in Daniel 10-12

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Daniel 10-12 describes one vision along with the encounter that Daniel had with a mighty angel. The vision is called a “great” vision (10:8)—it is the longest prophecy about the Antichrist in the Bible (57 verses). The second longest prophecy about the Antichrist is in Ezekiel 38-39 (51 verses).
- B. Daniel 10 describes the *effectiveness of prayer*; Daniel 11 the *power of the Antichrist*; and Daniel 12 the *sure victory of the redeemed*—the nation of Israel and all the redeemed.
- C. Outline of Daniel 10-12
 - 10:1-11:1** Daniel’s angelic encounter
 - 11:2-12:3** A vision of the Antichrist’s religious attitudes and military activities
 - 11:2 Future events related to the Persian Empire (11:2)—208 years (539-331 BC)
 - 11:3-4 Future events related to the Greek Empire (11:3-4)—185 years (331-146 BC)
 - 11:5-20 Future events related to conflict between Egypt and Syria
 - 11:21-45 Future events related to the Antichrist
 - 12:1-13 The final deliverance and victory of God’s people

II. DANIEL’S ANGELIC ENCOUNTER (DAN. 10:1-11:1)

- A. Daniel 10 describes the angelic encounter that Daniel had in receiving the vision of Daniel 11-12.
- B. The context of Daniel’s fifth vision (10:1-3): Daniel received this vision during the third year of the reign of Cyrus—in 536 BC. This was just over two years after Persia conquered Babylon (539 BC). In 538 BC, Cyrus gave the decree for Israel to return to Jerusalem. They arrived there in 536 BC.

¹In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia [536 BC] a message was revealed to Daniel... The message was true, but the appointed time was long... (Dan. 10:1)
- C. Daniel mourned because of the trouble the remnant was experiencing in Jerusalem (10:2-3).

²In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. ³I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth...till three whole weeks were fulfilled. (Dan. 10:2-3)
- D. Daniel saw a high-ranking angel (10:4-6).

⁵I lifted my eyes...a certain man [angel]...⁶his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire...and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. (Dan. 10:5-6)
- E. Daniel was impacted by this mighty angel (10:7-9) who possessed a great measure of God’s glory.

⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. ⁸Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me...⁹I heard the sound of his words...I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. (Dan. 10:7-9)

III. HOW PRAYER AFFECTS THE ACTIVITY OF ANGELS AND DEMONS (DAN. 10:10-14)

- A. A mighty angel came in response to Daniel's prayer to give him understanding (10:10-14).
*¹¹And he [angel] said to me, "O Daniel, man **greatly beloved**, understand the words that I speak to you...¹²for from the **first day** that you set your heart to understand and to humble yourself before your God, **your words were heard**; I have come because of your words. ¹³But the prince [demonic principality] of the kingdom of Persia **withstood me twenty-one days**; and behold, **Michael**, one of the chief princes [archangel], **came to help me**, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ¹⁴...I have come to **make you understand** what will happen to your people in the **latter days**, for the vision refers to **many days yet to come**." (Dan. 10:11-14)*
- B. **Greatly beloved**: The Lord revealed His love to Daniel (9:23; 10:11, 19).
- C. We wrestle against demonic principalities and rulers of darkness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).
- D. **The prince of Persia**: The demonic principality of the kingdom of Persia (Iran) withstood the angel for twenty-one days. This demonic power sought to stir up King Cyrus against Israel (10:13, 20-21).
- E. **Kings of Persia**: The angel had been left alone, that is, without the aid of another angel of great stature to assist him.
- F. **I have come because of your words**: Angels respond to the prayers of the saints.
- G. **Michael came to help**: Michael, one of the chief princes or archangels *came to help this angel*.
- H. **I must return to fight**: The fact that the angel *must return* implied that his conflict against the principality of Persia would continue. Thus, the prayers of God's people *must also continue*.
- I. An angel described his continued conflict against demonic spirits (10:20-11:1).
*²⁰He said, "**Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; when I have gone forth...the prince of Greece will come...**"²¹No one **upholds me against these, except Michael your prince**." ^{11:1}"Also in the **first year of Darius the Mede** [538 BC, two years earlier]... I stood up to confirm and **strengthen him** [Michael]." (Dan. 10:20-11:1)*

IV. THE ANTICHRIST IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

- A. Daniel 11-12 is the most detailed prophecy of the Antichrist. It gives insight into the Antichrist's political decisions, religious attitudes, and military activities, and into Israel's deliverance. The angel emphasized that this vision pertained to the end times (10:1, 14; 11:35; 12:1-3).
*¹...but the **appointed time was long**...¹⁴"...I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the **latter days**, for the vision refers to **many days yet to come**." (Dan. 10:1, 14)*
- B. Three of the four most detailed prophecies about the Antichrist in the Old Testament were given to Daniel (7:8-27; 8:9-26; 11:21-36). The fourth detailed prophecy is in Ezekiel. 38-39.

V. THE ANTICHRIST'S RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES (11:2-12:13)

- A. Daniel 11:2-20 covers the period from this vision in 536 BC up to Antiochus Epiphanes' reign ending in 164 BC—a period of 372 years (536-164 BC).
- B. Future events related to the Antichrist (11:21-45):
 - 1. Antiochus Epiphanes foreshadows the Antichrist (11:21-35). Daniel 11:21-35 has a dual application. The prophecies here were *partially* fulfilled in the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes (175-164 BC). They have their *complete* fulfillment in the Antichrist.
 - 2. The Antichrist's religious attitudes (11:36-39) and military activities (11:40-45): The prophecy in 11:36-45 is fulfilled in the Antichrist (any reference to Antiochus is minor).
- C. Daniel 12:1-13 describes the final deliverance and victory of God's people.
- D. Jesus pointed us to Daniel 11-12 in Matthew 24:15; therefore, we should take time to understand it.
¹⁵“When you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet... whoever reads, let him understand... ²¹For then there will be great tribulation...” (Mt. 24:15, 21)

VI. FIVE TRENDS HIGHLIGHTED IN DANIEL 11-12

- A. **Premise:** The trends that will *come in fullness* at the time of Jesus' return are *occurring now* and will *continue to increase*. He will release the greatest revival in the midst of the escalating darkness.
- B. In Daniel 11-12, an angel described five key trends occurring on the earth when Jesus returns. He mentioned the five trends twice—they cover the same five themes using different terminology.
 - 1. **The first description** (11:31-35) connects the *abomination of desolation* (11:31) to five key themes—knowing God and understanding His plans (11:32-33), doing miracles (11:32b), reaching “many” (both saved and unsaved) who will be purified (11:33b, 35), God's people facing martyrdom (11:34a), and receiving God's help in persecution (11:34).
*³¹“Then they shall...place there [the temple in Jerusalem] the abomination of desolation...
³²The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits [miracles].
³³And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...³⁴When they fall [martyrs], they shall be aided with a little help...³⁵Some of those of understanding shall fall [martyrs], to refine them, purify them...until the time of the end.” (Dan. 11:31-35)*
 - 2. **The second description** (12:1-11) connects the *abomination of desolation* (12:11) to five themes—increased angelic activity (12:1a), great trouble (12:1b), the deliverance of God's people (12:2), embracing righteousness (12:3, 10), and receiving understanding (12:10).
¹“At that time Michael shall stand up...there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation] ...your people shall be delivered...³and...turn many to righteousness ...¹⁰Many shall be purified ...but the wise shall understand...¹¹and the abomination of desolation is set up...” (Dan. 12:1-11)
- C. See the appendix at the end of updated document for more on these five trends.

VII. THE ANTICHRIST'S RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE: HIS ARROGANCE (DAN. 11:36-39)

A. The Antichrist's religious attitude is seen in his arrogance and self-exaltation (11:36-37).

³⁶***“Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished...³⁷He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all.” (Dan. 11:36-37)***

1. ***The king***: The Antichrist will be a political leader (11:36) in the end times (12:1-3).
2. ***His own will***: His arrogance will be manifested in his acting without fear of consequences.
3. ***Exalt himself above every god***: His unique political, military, economic, and spiritual power will embolden his pride so that he will claim to be God.
4. ***Speak blasphemies***: He will speak pompous words in claiming things about himself that are shocking, as he speaks with terrible boldness against God (7:8, 11, 20, 25; 2 Thes. 2:4).
5. ***Shall not regard the God of his fathers***: He will reject the religion of his ancestors. Some use this verse to make a case that the Antichrist is an apostate Jew. They say that he may grow up in a Jewish home; however, the text is inconclusive. The phrase *the God of his fathers* can be singular or plural. The “God of your fathers” is biblical phrase (2 Chr. 33:12; Acts 22:14).
6. ***Not regard the desire of women***: Some translate this as he shall have no “desire for women,” (he will hate women). If so, he may legalize perversion and oppression that targets women.

B. The Antichrist's religious attitude is seen in his magnifying “a god war” (11:38-39).

³⁸***“But in their place, he shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things. ³⁹Thus he shall act against the strongest fortresses with a foreign god, which he shall acknowledge, and advance its glory; and he shall cause them to rule over many, and divide the land for gain.” (Dan. 11:38-39)***

1. ***He shall honor a god of fortresses***: The Antichrist will honor “a god of war,” or military conquest (11:38). The god of fortresses speaks of demons that work to promote war, thus combining military and demonic power (11:40-45; cf. 7:8, 24; Rev. 13:4; 16:13-16).
2. ***A foreign god***: This speaks of a demonic source behind his military strategy and success.
3. ***But in their place***: The Antichrist will value and exalt war more than the God of his fathers, the desire of women, or any god (11:38).
4. ***Honoring a god his fathers did not know***: His fathers did not “know” or experience war.
5. ***Honor with gold and silver***: The Antichrist will honor the god of war (god of fortresses) with gold and silver by spending unprecedented amounts of money on developing his military.
6. ***Act against the strongest fortresses***: He will take aggressive military action against the strongest nations—even those with strong military might.

VIII. THE KINGS OF NORTH AND SOUTH WILL ATTACK THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 11:40)

- A. The kings of the North and South will attack the Antichrist (11:40).

⁴⁰“***At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him [Antichrist]; and the king of the North shall come against him [Antichrist] like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he [Antichrist] shall enter the countries, overwhelm them...*” (Dan. 11:40)**

1. ***King of the North:*** Syria may be the leading country in a northern confederacy, called the “king of the North” (11:40), which will most likely be an Islamic/Arab bloc.
2. ***King of the South:*** Egypt may be the leading country in a southern confederacy, called the “king of the South” (11:40, 42)—it may also be an Islamic/Arab bloc.

- B. The Antichrist shall enter the “Glorious Land” of Israel (11:41, 45; cf. 8:9). Many countries shall be overthrown. Edom, Moab, and the leaders from Ammon shall escape (11:40). These three nations refer to present-day Jordan. They escape trouble until Jesus marches through Edom (Isa. 63:1-6).

⁴¹“***He shall also enter the Glorious Land [Israel], and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon.*” (Dan. 11:41)**

IX. THE ANTICHRIST WILL ATTACK EGYPT (DAN. 11:42-43)

- A. The Antichrist will attack Egypt (11:42-43). Egypt will be temporarily overthrown and occupied by the Antichrist’s military, giving the Antichrist control of their national finances.

⁴²“***He [Antichrist] shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. ⁴³He shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; also the Libyans and Ethiopians shall follow at his heels.*” (Dan. 11:42-43)**

- B. ***Treasures:*** The Antichrist shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver and all the precious things of Egypt (11:43a). The precious things of Egypt may be the oil wells of the Middle East.

X. THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE ATTACKED FROM THE EAST AND NORTH (DAN. 11:44)

- A. The Antichrist will be firmly resisted and/or attacked from the east and the north (11:44). He will act in great anger to annihilate the leaders and nations that participated in the troubling news.

⁴⁴“***But news from the east and the north shall trouble him [Antichrist]...*” (Dan. 11:44)**

- B. ***News from the east:*** The Antichrist will hear troubling news from the Asian kings of the East, who will resist his financial seductions, refuse his miracles, and stand against his military threats.

- C. ***News from the north:*** This may not refer to Syria (the king of the North).

- D. The Antichrist will plant his headquarters near Jerusalem (11:45).

⁴⁵“***And he [Antichrist] shall plant...his palace between the seas [Mediterranean and Dead Seas] and the glorious holy mountain[temple] yet, he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.*” (Dan. 11:45)**

XI. THE VICTORY OF GOD’S PEOPLE OVER THE ANTICHRIST (DAN. 12:1-3)

- A. God’s people will be victorious over the Antichrist (12:1-3).

¹**“At that time [Antichrist’s military activity in 11:40-45] Michael [the archangel] shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people [Israel]; and there shall be a time of trouble [Great Tribulation], such as never was since there was a nation...at that time your people shall be delivered...²And many of those who sleep in the dust [physical death] of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life...³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness...and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.”**(Dan. 12:1-3)

- B. **Michael will stand up:** Michael will “stand up” to help Israel—he will arise to action. He will arise to do battle for Israel as Daniel saw him do against the principality of Persia in 10:12-14. The spiritual warfare modeled in Daniel 10 will be played out again on a global level.

⁷**And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought...⁹The great dragon [Satan] was cast out...he was cast to the earth, and his angels [demonic principalities] were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:7-9)**

- C. **Your people shall be delivered:** God’s people will be fully and finally delivered (12:2-3).

²**Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake [resurrection], some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever.”** (Dan. 12:2-3)

- D. **Shall awake:** In the resurrection the saints will recover all that was lost in the persecution.

XII. DETAILS ABOUT THE GREAT TRIBULATION (DAN. 12:4-13)

- A. Daniel was given two signs indicating the end times (12:4). He was commanded to seal the vision, and then the two signs were *increased travel* (to run to and fro) and *increased knowledge*.

⁴**“...the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”** (Dan. 12:4)

- B. Two primary components that are *dynamically affecting the acceleration* of good and evil today are the increases of travel and knowledge (via technology). See the 2013 article by David Shilling “*Knowledge Doubling Every 12 months, Soon To Be Every 12 Hours.*”

- C. The brevity of the Great Tribulation (Dan. 12:5-7): The Antichrist will persecute Israel for only 3½ years—until Israel’s rebellion is shattered (finished)—when all Israel is saved (Rom. 11:26).

⁶**“How long shall the fulfillment of these wonders be?” ⁷Then I heard the man...[he] swore by Him...that it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years]; when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished** (Dan. 12:6-7)

- D. He asked about Israel’s deliverance from persecution, unbelief, and compromise in 12:1 (12:8-10).

⁸**...I said, “My lord, what shall be the end [purpose] of these things?” ⁹And he said, “...¹⁰Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.** (Dan. 12:8-10)